

Towns Fund Board
Friday 21st May 2021 at 11.00am via Webex

Present:

Tony Parkinson, Middlesbrough Council Chief Executive
Andy McDonald, Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough
Thomas Smith, Life Sciences Public Engagement Expert
Adam Suleiman, Cities and Local Growth Unit BEIS
Zoe Lewis, Principal and Chief Executive Middlesbrough College
Ian Wardle, Group Chief Executive Thirteen Group
Laura Sillars, Dean of mima School of Art & Design Teesside University
Daryl Thomlinson, Cleveland Police
Rachel Anderson, Assistant director of Policy NECC
Cllr Mieka Smiles – Executive Member for Communities and Education MBC
Chris Smith – Executive Director of Business Growth – Thirteen Group
Nicolas Baumfield – Arts Council

In attendance

Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration MBC
Andrew Perriman, Head of Legal Services MBC
Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth and Infrastructure MBC
Andrew Glover – Head of Marketing and Communications

1.	<p>Apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Apologies: Ian Wardle, Group Chief Executive Thirteen Group (Chris Smith substituting) Andy Preston, Mayor of Middlesbrough Alex Bell at M&S Arriva (named rep TBC)</p> <p>In the absence of the Chair, Tony Parkinson provisionally chaired the meeting prior to the nomination of a vice chair; at agenda Item 3.</p> <p>Zoe Lewis and Rachel Anderson declared an interest in Middlesbrough College relating to agenda Item 4 – as such they will be placed in the ‘virtual lobby’ for the debate and voting for that item.</p> <p>Andy McDonald declared his position as an honorary governor of Middlesbrough College. This was not seen as a conflict of interest in relation to Item 4.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p>
3.	<p>Constitution Adoption / Vice Chair Nominations</p> <p>The circulated draft constitution was discussed and a minor amendment was tabled in respect of appendix B, Prejudicial interests. This was amended from:</p>

	<p><i>'The matter being discussed affects their financial position or that of any person with whom they have a personal interest'</i></p> <p>Amended to: <i>'The matter being discussed affects their financial position or that of any <u>person, organisation or business</u> with whom they have a personal interest'</i></p> <p>Nominations were sought for a Vice Chair position for the Board. Andy McDonald nominated Tony Parkinson as Vice Chair. This nomination was carried.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>College Business Case (paper sent prior)</p> <p>The Board were invited to ask any questions for clarification of the business case.</p> <p>Zoe Lewis and Rachel Anderson were placed in the virtual lobby for the debate and voting on the acceptance of the business case for Middlesbrough College's application.</p> <p>Chris Smith asked if there were any images available for the development. Andy McDonald reminded the board of the presentation at the previous board meeting and the fact that the project had already been approved in principle.</p> <p>The board unanimously voted to approve the business case and award Middlesbrough College £1,175,000 as per the business case presented.</p> <p>In terms of procedure, Middlesbrough Council's S151 officer will now formalise the funding arrangements and a funding agreement will be drafted with Middlesbrough College.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Strategic Context Presentation – Consolidated priorities and funding</p> <p>Sam Gilmore delivered a presentation detailing the strategic context of Middlesbrough's wider approach to economic growth and the diversification of the economy. This set out the reasoning behind aligning all funding streams and investment to high-density town centre uses.</p> <p>Andy McDonald identified that the capital investment strategy was a good start, but that it needs to be mirrored with a local strategy to match the new opportunities with the resident population and, in particular, dealing with poverty. It critical that the investments cited can be matched with an appropriate level of services and revenue support.</p> <p>Tony Parkinson confirmed that he was confident that the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was robustly managed and could reflect these aspirations.</p> <p>Andy McDonald also raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Building - Linthorpe Road – a major blight on a key gateway site. This feeds into broader reputational issues for the Town. First impressions being key.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green and cultural issues should be at the heart of any regeneration programmes – an example was cited on a case study in Strasbourg • Retail shrinkage and disadvantages in terms of bricks and mortar taxation and business rates – advantageous to online traders. • Northern Elevation of the rail station – at risk of being ignored. Main gateway and cannot be neglected. It needs to be a statement entrance. <p>Laura Sillars reflected that a cultural basis was critical and queried how new ideas and opportunities can be reflected in the work of the Town Investment Plan. Mieka Smiles invited Laura for a discussion on such.</p> <p>Zoe Lewis noted that perception and feel is also critical. Lighting and public realm connectivity, between town centre areas is critical.</p> <p>Mieka Smiles – Was keen to seek the group’s view on the potential of major potential property vacancies and the role of the Town Deal Board – Debenhams etc</p> <p>Thomas Smith – in terms of strategy and awareness we need to get out and about with as much news as possible about the scope of the Town Investment Plan. Andrew Glover confirmed that the interactive map will provide a basis and Sam Gilmore confirmed that the town investment plan and community engagement strategy is under review.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Work Programme</p> <p>A schedule of business case workflows and meeting dates was shared with the group.</p> <p>Tony Parkinson noted that he was keen to keep momentum up over the summer months / holidays and asked that supplementary dates in July and September were considered.</p> <p>This is to be reviewed in line with business case schedule.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Community Engagement – Ward Initiatives</p> <p>A number of questions were presented to the board to capture the initial feedback from communities on how the £1m ward initiatives allocation might be used. This included open questions for the use of the money and whether the community would prefer equally distributed funding or fewer, larger schemes.</p>

	<p>The questions were noted and Andrew Glover confirmed that the questionnaire would be published W/C 24th May.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Programme administration – Sam Gilmore confirmed that MHCLG documentation highlights that a revenue contribution within the programme. The appropriate development and administration requirement has been assessed at C. 3%, over four years. This allocation is not absolute as the level of external and professional advice is not exactly quantified at this stage. Such costs would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Administration • Legal costs and Specialist Advice • Monitoring and Evaluation • Project Delivery Capacity <p>Recommendation: It is recommended that the Town Deal Board approves a revenue allocation of 3% of the gross programme value, to cover the entire duration of the management, delivery and monitoring of the Town Deal. This deduction would only apply to those projects which require the preparatory advice and delivery capacity; and, where a revenue contribution would not prejudice the delivery of project outputs.</p> <p>The recommendation was approved.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Provisional: 1p.m. Friday 20 August 2021- location / online TBC</p> <p>Subject to any amendments highlighted in Agenda Item 6</p>